

IN THE DRAWINGS

Please add the legend "Related Art" to each of drawing Figs. 1, 2 and 3. These corrected drawings are incorporated into the replacement sheets attached hereto.

REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

In the Office Action under reply, the Examiner objected to the Abstract. By this amendment, the Abstract is corrected; and a clean copy of the corrected Abstract is attached.


In the Office Action, the Examiner required a distinctive label for drawing Figs. 1-3. The representations shown in Figs. 1-3 are related art. The instant specification does not refer to Figs. 1-3 as "conventional" or "prior art" representations. Accordingly, the correct label is "Related Art." Replacement sheets for Figs. 1-3 are attached, incorporating these corrections to Figs. 1-3.

Finally, in the Office Action, claims 1-16 were allowed, but claims 17-22 were rejected as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 17 is amended to conform to the Interim Guidelines promulgated by the Office. As such, it is submitted that claim 17 clearly defines patentable subject matter and the rejection thereof should be withdrawn. Claims 18-22 are amended to be consistent with claim 17.

Accordingly, claims 1-22, all the claims remaining in this application, are in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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ABSTRACT

A shortest cut duration is a minimum required period between an edit point set on a stream of pictures such as an MPEG stream and the next edit point set on the stream. Restrictions are made on the shortest cut duration lenient in a process to seamlessly reproduce a result of editing the stream in order to enhance the freedom of editing in carrying out a process of editing the stream. A controller detects each edit point set on the stream and, for the edit point, the controller identifies fewest possible pictures, which are not to be displayed but must be decoded first before decoding a picture to be displayed after the edit point. Then, the controller finds a start point representing a timing to start a process of decoding the one or fewest possible pictures. Subsequently, the controller controls processes carried out by decoders to decode the stream in picture units on the basis of the start point, and controls a switcher to select one of outputs of the decoders on the basis of the edit point.